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ABSTRACT

A system and method for establishing a secure connection with an entity protected by an access control mechanism. A trusted arbitrator is used as an intermediary between a computer network employing the access control mechanism and external entities seeking to communicate
5 securely with an entity inside the computer network. Connection requests for establishing a secure connection from an external entity are routed to the trusted arbitrator, which interacts with both the external entity and entities within the computer network. A secure connection is established between the external entity and the trusted arbitrator. Another secure connection is established between the entities within the computer network and the trusted arbitrator. The
10 trusted arbitrator decrypts and encrypts from one connection to another, allowing the external entity to communicate securely with the computer network. Because the trusted arbitrator may support multiple authentication and/or encryption schemes, secure communication can be achieved even if the external entity and the computer network do not support the same authentication and/or encryption schemes.
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